

# Vietnam



## REGION: EAST ASIA

Also included in this region: China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand

## PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Vietnamese HE system fairly closely fits the Former Eastern Bloc model. Our data indicate that over 80% of all students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with the rest in short-cycle HEIs. However, Vietnamese data do not allow us to decipher what share of students attended specialised universities, which we believe to be a considerable number, hence the Former Eastern Bloc model classification. Enrolments rose by over 75% between 2006 and 2015 before falling back slightly thereafter. The number of HEIs increased even more quickly than enrolments, meaning the Vietnamese HEIs became a lot smaller over time. Just over 85% of students attended public providers in 2018, which was slightly above the average for the rest of East Asia.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
<b>Comprehensive Universities</b>	Universities	171	65	236
<b>Short-Cycle HEIs</b>	Colleges	360	88	448

FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018

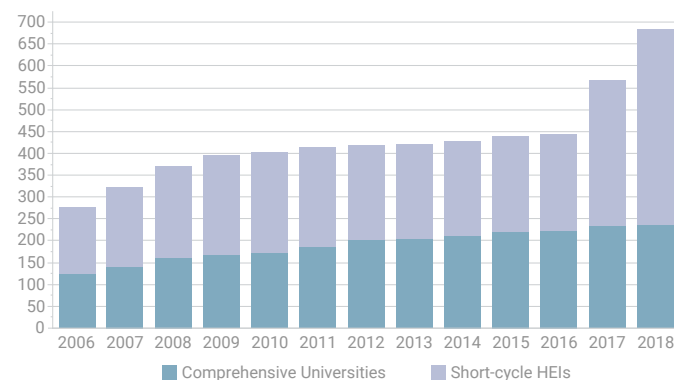
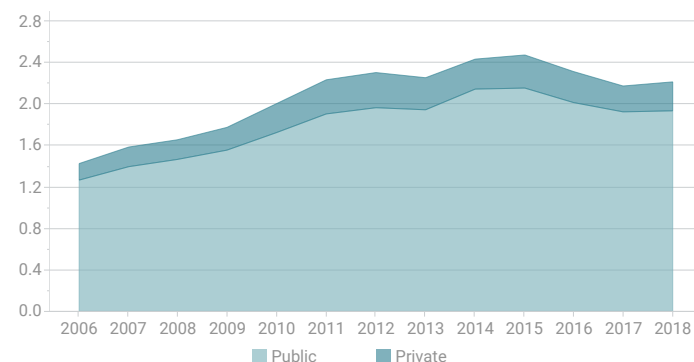
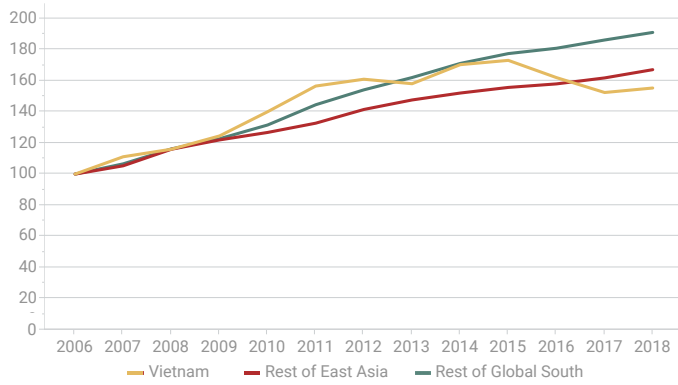


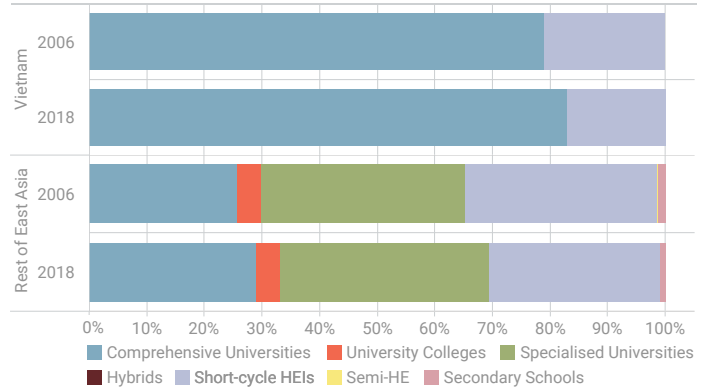
FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



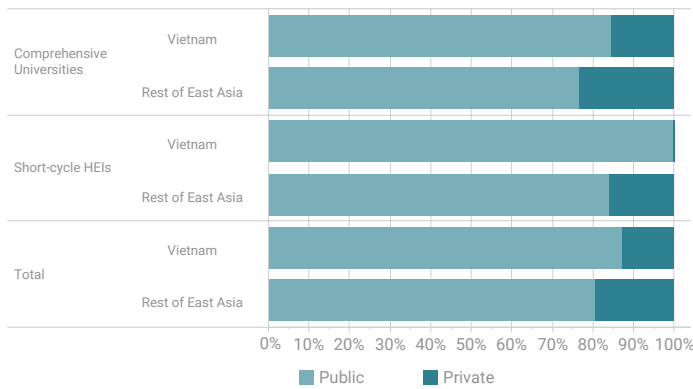
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in Vietnam, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



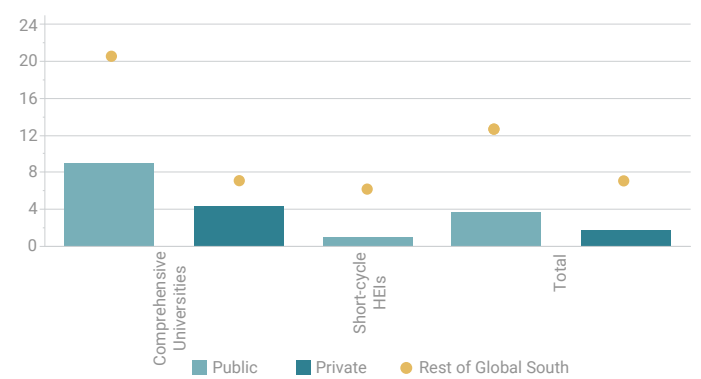
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Vietnam and the rest of East Asia, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Vietnam and the rest of East Asia, 2018



**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in Vietnam and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



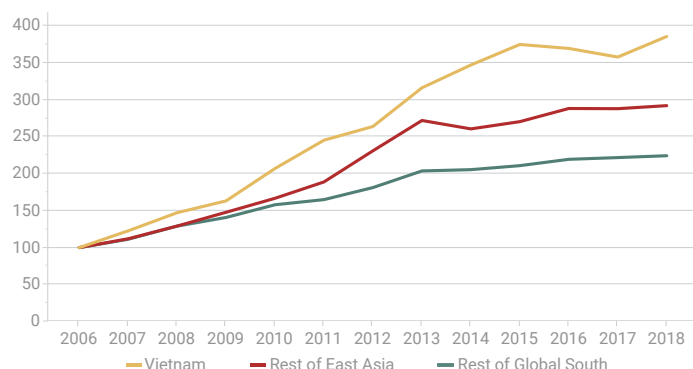
**Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam**



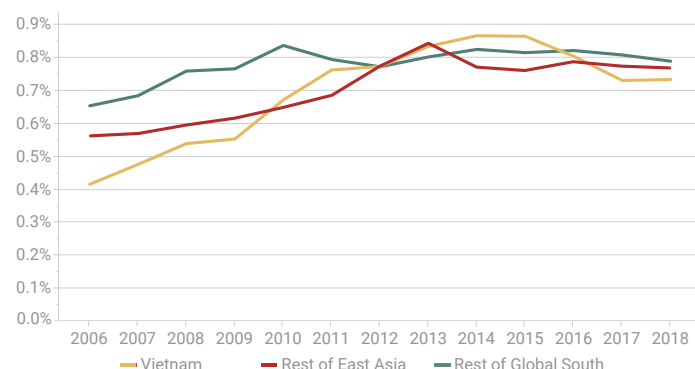
## PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Vietnam nearly quadrupled from 2006 to 2018, far above the averages across the rest of East Asia and the Global South. This investment allowed public spending per student to rise from about USD 1,000 to almost USD 2,500, despite large increases in enrolments. Public HE spending grew from 0.4% of GDP in 2006 to 0.7% in 2018, approaching the averages for the rest of East Asia and the Global South.

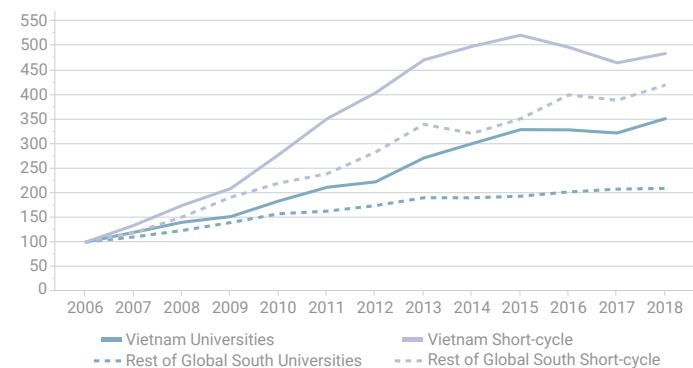
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Vietnam, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



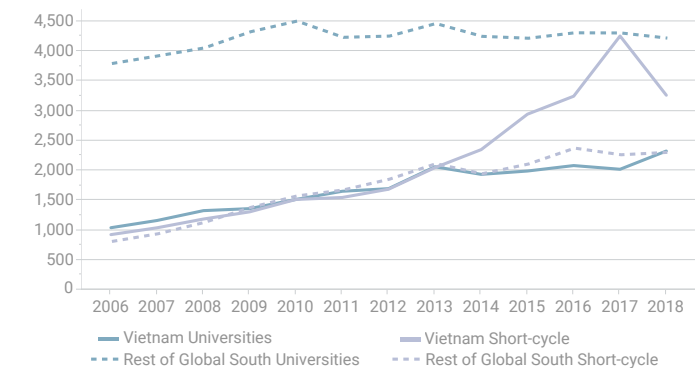
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Vietnam, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



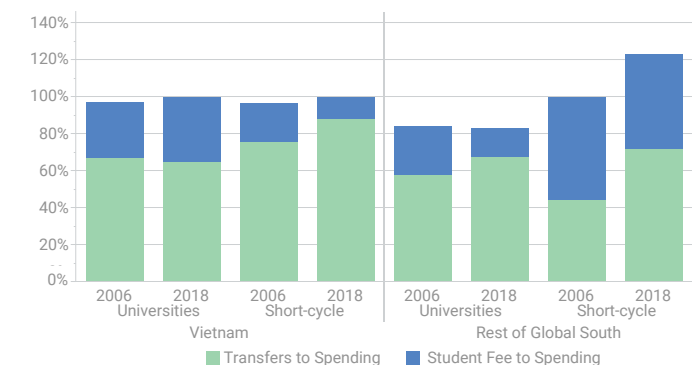
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Vietnam and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



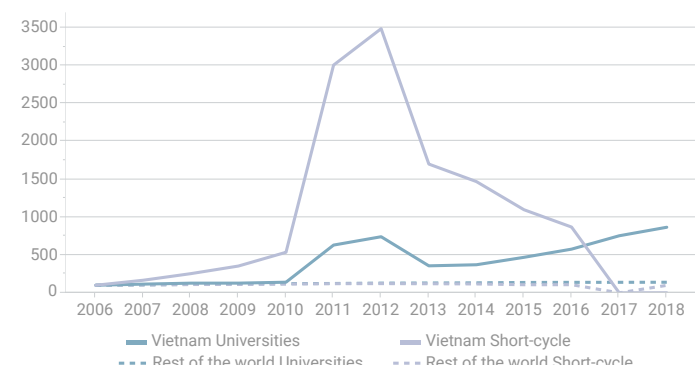
**FIGURE 10** – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Vietnam and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



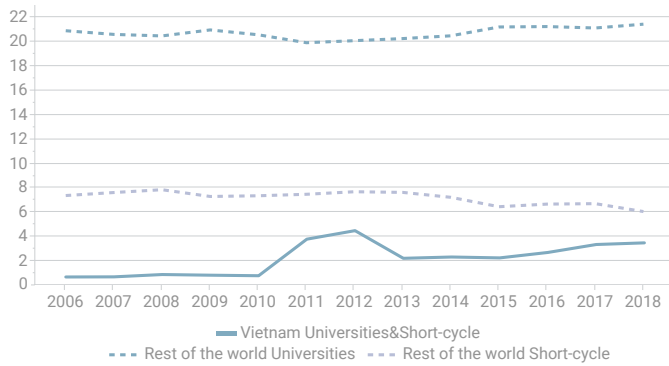
**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Vietnam and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



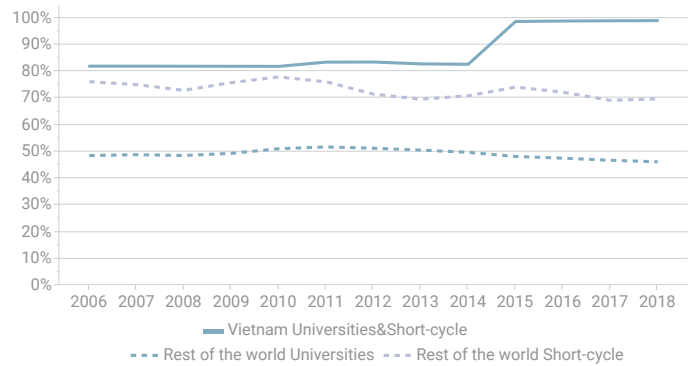
**FIGURE 12** – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Vietnam and the rest of the world, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 13** – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Vietnam and the rest of the world, 2006-2018



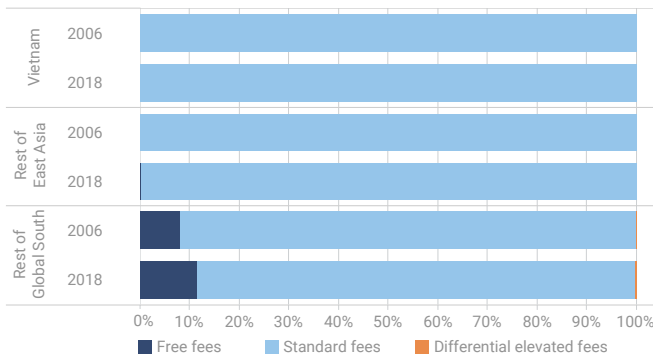
**FIGURE 14** – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Vietnam and the rest of the world, 2006-2018



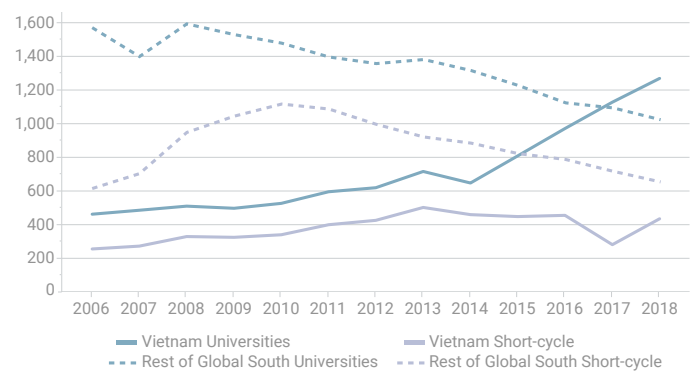
**PART III: STUDENT FEES**

All students in Vietnam pay some form of compulsory fees. We estimate that fee revenue per student at public HEIs has been rising steadily from about USD 500/year in 2006 to just over USD 1,300/year in 2018.

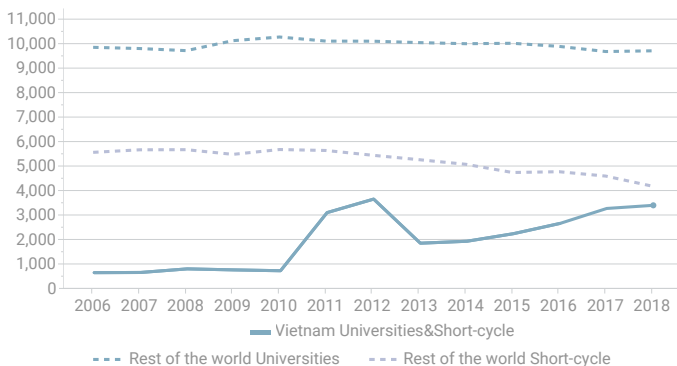
**FIGURE 15** – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Vietnam, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



**FIGURE 16** – Fee revenues per student paying typical rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 17** – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



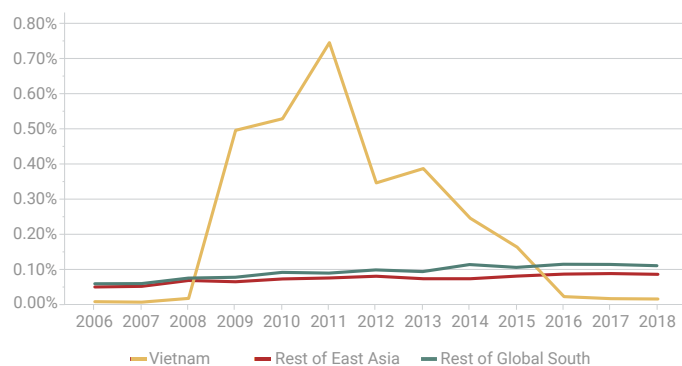
## PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Vietnam is essentially loan-only. Roughly 3% of Vietnamese students received a loan in 2018, down from a reported peak of 90% in 2011. This high point reflected a short-lived experiment with mass-lending in the years following the Great Financial Crisis, during which loan disbursements expanded enormously but loan losses were very high due to very short repayment periods. Student aid disbursements soared from virtually nothing to 0.8% of GDP in 2011, and then fell back again to under .05% of GDP in 2018. This final level was well below the averages of the rest of East Asia and the Global South.

**TABLE 2** – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Loans	The Vietnam Social Policy Bank Student Loan Program (SLP)	Need-based	65,000	118,655,834

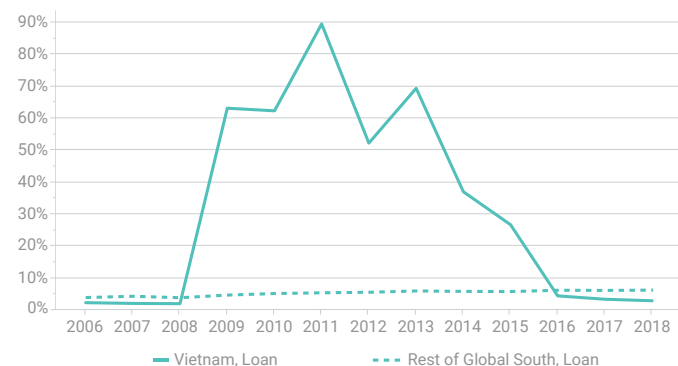
**FIGURE 18** – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product in Vietnam, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



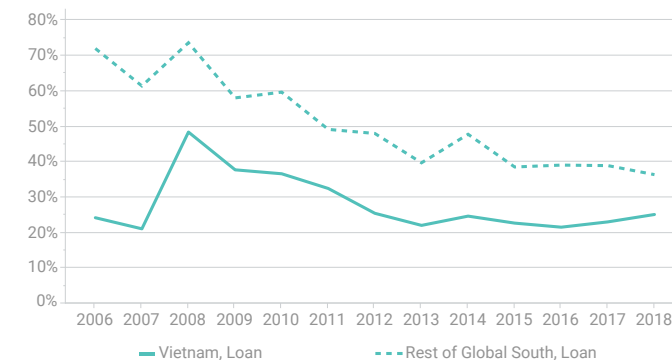
**FIGURE 19** – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Vietnam and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 20** – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Vietnam and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 21** – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Vietnam and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



**\*Note:** For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).